Hast thou no Letters to me from the *Frier*?
Man. No my good Lord.

Exit.

Ro. No matter, get thee gone,
And hyre those Horses, Ile be with thee straight.
Well *Iuliet*, I will lye with thee to night:
Lets see for meanes, O mischiefe thou art swift,
To enter in the thoughts of desperate men:
I doe remember an Appothecarie,
And here abouts a dwels, which late I noted
In tattred weeds, with ouer-whelming browes,
Culling of Simples, meager were his lookes,
Sharpe miserie had worne him to the bones:
And in his needy shop a Tortoys hung,
An Allegater stuft, and other skinnes
Of ill shap't fishes, and about his shelues,
A beggerly account of emptie boxes,
Greene earthen pots, bladders and mustie seeds,
Remnants of packthred, and old Cakes of Roses
Were thinly scattered, to make vp a shew.
Noting this penury, to my selfe I said,
An if a man did need a poyson now,
Whose sale is present death in *Mantua*,
Here liues a Caitiffe wretch would sell it him.
O this same thought did but fore-run my need,
And this same needie man must sell it me.
As I remember, this should be the house,
Being holy day, the Beggers shop is shut.
What ho Apothecarie:
Appo. Who cals so lowd?
Rom. Come hither man, I see that thou art poore,
Hold, there is fortie Duckets, let me haue
A dram of poyson, such soone speeding geare,
As will disperse it selfe through all the veines,
That the life-wearie-taker may fall dead,
And that the Truncke may be discharg'd of breath,
As violently, as hastie powder fierd

Doth

Doth hurry from the fatall Canons wombe.
Poti. Such mortall drugs I haue, but *Mantuas* law
Is death to any he that vtters them.
Ro. Art thou so bare and full of wretchednesse,
And fearest to die, famine is in thy cheekes,
Neede and oppression starueth in thy eyes,
Contempt and beggery hangs vpon thy backe:
The world is not thy friend, nor the worlds law,
The world affords no law to make thee rich:
Then be not poore, but breake it and take this.
Po. My pouerty, but not my will consents.
Ro. I pay thy pouerty and not thy will.
Po. Put this in any liquid thing you will,
And drinke it off, and if you had the strength
Of twenty men, it would dispatch you straight.
Ro. There is thy Gold, worse poyson to mens soules,
Doing more murthers in this loathsome world,
Then these poore compounds that thou mai'st not sell,
I sell thee poyson, thou hast sold me none,
Farewell, buy foode, and get thy selfe in flesh.
Come Cordiall and not poyson, goe with me
To *Iuliets* graue, for there must I vse thee.

Exeunt

Enter Frier Iohn *to Frier* Lawrence.
Ioh. Holy *Franciscan* Frier, brother, ho.
Enter Lawrence.
Law. This same should be the voice of *Frier* Iohn,
Welcome from *Mantua*: what sayes *Romeo*?
Or if his mind be writ, giue me his Letter.
Ioh. Going to find a barefoote brother out,
One of our order to associate me,
Here in this Citie visiting the sicke,
And finding him, the Searchers of the towne,
Suspecting that we both were in a house,
Where the infectious pestilence did raigne,
Seald vp the doores, and would not let vs forth,
So that may speede to *Mantua* there was staide.

Law.

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Romeo and Juliet* (STC 22325) LONDON, [1622] UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH (JA 3736) Octavo